Year	Total (no. of pieces detected)	Value	Total persons arrested
2009 (upto 30.9.2009)	2,47,995	Rs.9,07,64,200/-	868

(c) to (e) Available inputs indicate that high quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) are printed in a neighbouring country and pushed into India through neighbouring countries. The issue has also been taken up consistently with the neighbouring countries in the bilateral fora.

Limit of operation of nationalised banks

1279. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations of nationalized banks like State Bank of India (SBI) is limited to specific areas;

(b) if so, whether it encourages the function of private banks in other areas; and

(c) if not so, whether the allocation of student loan by SBI is limited to those who are living in Specific areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Bank of India extends student loan throughout the country without any restrictions.

Fall in foreign exchange reserve

1280. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian foreign exchange reserve fell considerably recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the factors responsible for fall in foreign exchange reserve; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to maintain reserves of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Foreign Exchange Reserves comprising Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and Reserve Tranche Position with IMF has increased from US$ 251.99 billion at the end of March 2009 to US$ 284.39 billion at the end of October 2009. This increased further to US$ 286.38 billion as on November 13, 2009. The details are given below.

Foreign Exchange Reserves, Component wise and month wise, during 2009-10

(US$ billion)

Sl. No.	Month (end of Month)	FCA+	Gold$	SDRs@	RTP in IMF**	Total Foreign Exchange Reserves
1.	March 2009	241.43	9.58	0.001	0.981	251.99
2.	April 2009	241.74	9.23	0.001	0.983	251.95
3.	May 2009	251.46	9.60	0.001	1.245	262.31
4.	June 2009	254.09	9.80	0.001	1.248	265.14
5.	July 2009	260.63	9.67	0.001	1.338	271.64
6.	August 2009	261.25	9.83	4.828	1.349	277.25
7.	September 2009	264.37	10.32	5.224	1.365	281.28
8.	October 2009	266.77	10.80	5.24	1.58	284.39
9.	November, 2009 (upto 13 November)	262.91	17.50	5.270	0.701	286.38

+: Excludes US$ 250 million invested in foreign currency denominated bonds issued by IIFC (UK).

**: Reserve Position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), *i.e.*, Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) which was shown as a memo item from May 23, 2003 to March 26, 2004 has been included in the reserves from the week ended April 2, 2004 in keeping with the international best practice.

@: Includes SDR 3,082.5 million (equivalent to US$ 4,883 million) allocated under general allocation and SDR 214.6 million (equivalent to US$ 340 million) allocated under special allocation by IMF done on August 28, 2009 and September 9, 2009, respectively.

$: Includes USD 6,699 million reflecting the purchase of 200 metric tonnes of gold from IMF on November 3, 2009.

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

The level of foreign exchange reserves is largely the outcome of the Reserve Bank's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility and valuation changes due to movement of US dollar against other major currencies of the world.

Relevance of WPI

1281. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the irrelevance of the current Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with inflation rate in the context of continuing inflation going negative; and

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken to bring the Price-index in tune with inflation rate by relating the Index with the rate of inflation?